

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. The claims, as currently pending in the application, read as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus having a communication function, comprising:

first switching means for switching between first and second ~~stand-by~~
communication modes in a stand-by state of the communication function; and

second switching means for switching between first and second state
communication modes for the communication function; of the apparatus in accordance
with the switching by said first switching means;

returning means for responding to an inquiry about a state of said apparatus
from another apparatus to which the apparatus is to be connected by the communication
function;

execution means for executing a first process of notifying the inquiry from
the another apparatus to said returning means, and for executing a second process of
generating an inquiry about the state of said apparatus in place of the another apparatus,
and for notifying the generated inquiry to said returning means; and

process switching means for switching between the first process and the
second process in accordance with the switching between communication modes by said
first switching means

~~wherein switching by said first switching means and switching by said~~
~~second switching means are performed in cooperation with each other.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first and second state stand-by modes have different power consumptions powers.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first and second communication modes have different power consumptions powers.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~white switching by said second~~ first switching means is performed, ~~switching by said first switching means is performed~~ operable to switch the communication mode when the apparatus starts a communication with the another apparatus by using the communication function.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~when the apparatus communicates with another apparatus by using the communication function; switching by said second switching means is performed~~ is a wireless communication function.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the communication function is ~~a wireless communication function~~ operable to realize communications in conformity with Bluetooth specifications.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first communication mode ~~function realizes communications in conformity with Bluetooth~~

specifications is an active mode of Bluetooth specifications and the second communication mode is one of a park mode, a sniff mode and a hold mode of the Bluetooth specifications.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 5 1, wherein the ~~first~~ second communication mode is ~~an active mode of Bluetooth specifications and the second communication mode is one of a park mode, a sniff mode and a hold mode of the Bluetooth specifications~~ a low power consumption mode for reducing power at a communication unit, and said second process is executed during the low power consumption mode at said communication unit.

9. The apparatus according to claim 1, ~~further comprising:~~
~~returning means for returning a response to a request from another apparatus to be connected by using the communication function; and~~

~~process switching means for selectively executing a first process of notifying the request from the other apparatus to said returning means and a second process of notifying the request to the returning means for the other apparatus;~~

~~wherein said process switching means switches between the first and second processes in response to switching by said second switching means~~ wherein said second communication mode is a first low power consumption mode for reducing power at a communication unit, and said second state mode is a second low power consumption mode for reducing power at said apparatus.

wherein said second process generates said inquiry in a case where said first switching means switches to said first low power consumption mode and said second switching means switches to said first state mode, and does not create said inquiry in a case

where said first switching means switches to said first low power consumption mode and said second switching means switches to said second state mode.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising:

judging means for judging whether switching by said ~~first~~ second switching means is performed in response to switching by said ~~second~~ first switching means,

wherein said process switching means switches between the first and second processes in accordance with a judgement by said judging means.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling an apparatus having a communication function, comprising:

a first switching step of switching between first and second ~~stand-by~~ communication modes ~~in a stand-by state for the communication function; and~~

a second switching step of switching between first and second ~~communication state~~ modes for the communication function, of the apparatus in accordance with the switching by said first switching step;

a returning step of responding to an inquiry about a state of the apparatus from another apparatus to be connected by the communication function;

an execution step of executing a first process of notifying the inquiry from the another apparatus to said returning step, and a second process of generating an inquiry

about the state of the apparatus in place of the another apparatus, and notifying the generated inquiry to the returning step; and

a process switching step of switching between the first process and the second process in accordance with the switching of the communication mode by the first switching step

~~wherein switching by said first switching step and switching by said second switching step are performed in cooperation with each other.~~

13. (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing a program for controlling an apparatus having a communication function, the program comprising:

a first switching step of switching between first and second stand-by communication modes in a stand-by state for the communication function; and

a second switching step of switching between first and second communication state modes for the communication function; of the apparatus in accordance with the switching of the first switching step;

a returning step of responding to an inquiry about a state of the apparatus from another apparatus to be connected by the communication function;

an execution step of executing a first process of notifying the inquiry from the another apparatus to said returning step, and a second process of generating an inquiry about the state of the apparatus in place of the another apparatus, and notifying the generated inquiry to the returning step; and

a process switching step of switching between the first process and the second process in accordance with the switching of the communication mode by the first switching step

~~wherein switching by said first switching step and switching by said second switching step are performed in cooperation with each other.~~